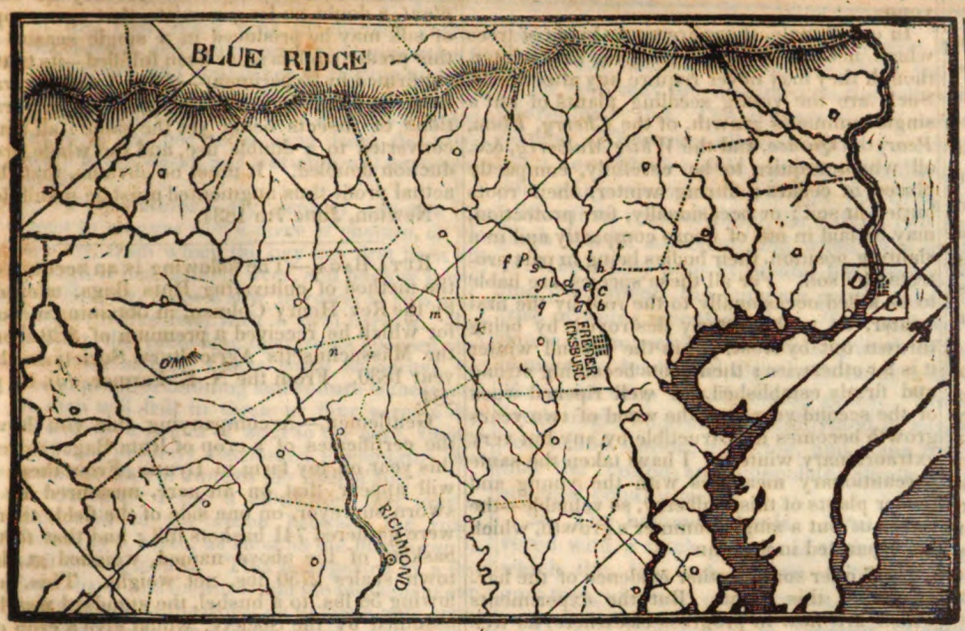

MAP OF THE GOLD REGION OF VIRGINIA.
[*From a Correspondent.*]

REFERENCES.

a, United States Gold Mine,		Spotsylvania county.	
b, Rappahannock	"	Stafford	"
c, Rattlesnake	"	do.	"
d, Culpepper	"	Culpepper	"
e, Millbank	"	do.	"
f, Virginia	"	Orange	"
g, Vancluse	"	do.	"
h, Liberty	"	Faquier	"
i, Union	"	do.	"
j, Johnson's	"	Spotsylvania	"
k, Dixon's	"	do.	"
l, Mellville	"	Orange	"
m, Tinder's	"	Louisa	"
n, Goochland	"	Goochland	"
o, Booker's Willis mt.	"	Buckingham	"
p, J. Payne's	"	Orange	"
q, Greenwood	"	Spotsylvania	"

This map exhibits a condensed view of the gold region of Virginia, and is taken from a larger one belonging to Mr. F. Shepherd, of New-Haven, who has spent some months in surveying and exploring this interesting portion of our country. We say interesting, because the amount of gold annually obtained in the United States, is estimated in millions of dollars; and this amount is rapidly increasing when, comparatively speaking, the surface only of the ground has been disturbed in getting this precious metal.

We learn from Mr. S. that the undue excitement which the first discovery of gold creates in the minds of all classes, is now at an end in Virginia, and the business of getting gold is assuming a settled and systematic character. The farmer now goes on with his farming, and the experienced miner with his mining, and in this way each is mutually an aid to the other.

As to the richness of the Virginia ores, Mr. S. has given us full satisfaction, by simply pounding them in a mortar and washing away the sand in our presence, when, to our surprise, a large proportion of metallic gold appeared in numerous and beautiful grains, and this, too, from specimens which had no gold visible on the outside.

The following is an extract from the report of Mr. Shepherd:

"I am decidedly of opinion that Virginia is destined, sooner or later, to become a rich and prosperous mining country; that whenever skill and capital shall be judiciously applied, (in the language of an able and beautiful writer,) she will one day be to the country what Cornwall is to England, the seat of prodigious industry, and the source of individual and national wealth."

In coming to this conclusion I do not lose sight of the great natural advantages which Virginia possesses over other mining districts in the United States, and throughout the world. It will be seen by the map that by a little more than half a day's ride, any one can be transported from the city of Washington on the Potomac, to the gold mines on the Rappahannoc, on the banks of a beautiful river made navigable by locks and dams, a distance of ten miles to tide-water and steamboat navigation, commencing at Fredericksburg, which is a busy inland town, at all seasons supplying a plentiful market. Add to this the very low price of provisions and labor, the vast abundance of wood and timber, the great number of water powers easily created upon the numerous streams, the peculiarity of the soil and earth as affording facilities for excavation, (since steam is now applied to all kinds of digging,) and finally the beautiful developement of the rich gold veins, said by those who have been observers in both countries, by far to excel Mexico, South America, or even Russia so much celebrated of late for her gold mines. These veins are composed of quartz commonly called white flint, from one to four feet in thickness, generally perpendicular in the earth like a wall, supported on both sides by soft talcose slate, and extend from the surface to an unknown depth. It is not uncommon to find gold in the broken fragments of the veins at the surface, and it has also been found at the depth of 160 feet increasingly rich. The gold district lies in that part of Virginia between the tide-water and Blue Ridge, where the atmosphere is dry and exhilerating, the climate mild and agreeable, the water well tasted and pure, the inhabitants of that class so long and so justly famed for their hospitality and refinement, and for whose convenience, the great National or Southern Railroad is about to pass by them as it were at their thresholds.

Still, with all these natural and extraordinary advantages, I feel it my duty, continues Mr. Shepherd, to give my friends and fellow-citizens of New-England, a few words of advice by way of caution. That there is a very large amount of gold in the great State of Virginia, and that this large amount of gold may be extracted so as to afford a large profit, is clear to a demonstration; and I believe that this section of our country is worthy the attention of northern enterprise and capital. Yet it frequently happens that many persons have an idea that wherever gold is discovered, if they can but get possession of the lands, no matter at what price, their fortune is made for a certainty. This foolish impression has ruined many a man. The temptation is so great that where a person wishes to sell his land as gold land, and cannot find gold upon it, in order to effect his object, he will sometimes bring gold sands and ores from a distance, and bury them upon his own grounds, which of course the purchaser finds out to his sorrow when too late. Again, some persons, on finding a few grains of gold, suppose that if they dig deep they will surely find the precious metal in masses and blocks. It is needless to add that such visionary day-dreams are rarely realized—still many are sanguine enough to pursue the chance with great ardor.

To those persons who engage in this business for the purpose of speculation, I would say that they will only be benefitted at the expense of others, and will injure the mining interest of the country more in a few days than they can possibly repair in many years.

Finally, persons ought not to engage in this business without previous skill and experience. It is obviously unsafe for them to do so; and here is the cause of so many failures of companies and individuals. Gold mining is as much an art or trade as iron mining. What company of farmers would undertake of themselves to get iron from the ore? And what would be the probable result of such an undertaking? What would be the result if this same company of farmers should undertake to work the ores of zinc, so rich and abundant in this country? I have no doubt you anticipate the result correctly; and the same result is to be expected in their undertaking to get gold. Some persons in their ignorance suppose that if they expend a large amount, or venture a large sum, that they shall certainly realize something in return. Such visionary men lose their all, generally; whereas, in the hands of a discreet and experienced man, every cent of that money, like the well directed blows of the axeman, would be turned to a good account; and instead of a loss he would reap a reward of an hundred fold. In proof of this I have known a man to expend ten hundred dollars and get ten thousand dollars of gold for his reward, and from an examination of his lands, believe that he might labor all his life in the same prudent way, and with the same good success. Again I have known another man in the same situation precisely, expend the same sum and get nothing but a load of debt upon his shoulders instead of gold. Now will you say that these mines ought not to be worked? No, you will say let them be worked by honest, experienced and prudent men. Let this be done, and the capitalist will find his money profitably employed, and the millions of gold in Virginia will be made to circulate and gladden the hearts of millions of the human race now pining in want and "perishing for lack of knowledge."

HEAT.—It has been said by an astronomer, that a globe of red hot iron as large as our earth would scarcely cool in 50,000 years. If this be true, then the comet which appeared in 1680, cooling a hundred times as fast as the hot iron, its heat being actually 2,060 times greater, would take a million of years to become perfectly cool, admitting it to possess a quantity of matter equal to that constituting this earth. That the comet alluded to was solid, cannot be doubted, as Sir Isaac Newton clearly demonstrated that in its passage through the neighborhood of the sun, it must have been dissipated, had it not been of solid compact substance. In its perihelion, Dec. 8, it was observed to be to the distance of the earth from the sun as 6 to 100. The sun's heat in the comet, at that time, was to the heat with us at midsummer as 1,000,000 to 36, or as 28,000 to 1. Had the comet consisted of exhalations of the sun, as some astronomers of the day intimated, it must have been completely dissipated; for the heat of the sun, it is generally allowed, is as the density of his rays, or in other words, reciprocally as the squares of the distances of places from the sun.—[Scientific Tracts.]

LIGHT.—Dr. Nieuwentyt has computed that, in a second, there flows 418,660,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 particles of light out of a burning candle, which number contains, at least, 6,337,342,000,000 times the number of grains of sand in the whole earth, supposing every cubic inch of the earth to contain a million of grains.

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